



## Henderson County Department of Public Health

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Henderson County Department of Public Health Confirms Additional Cases of COVID-19**

**Hendersonville, NC (April 5, 2020).** On Saturday, April 4, 2020, the Henderson County Department of Public Health received confirmation of 23 positive cases of COVID-19 linked to residents and staff at Cherry Springs Village, an assisted living community in Hendersonville, NC. The additional testing that led to these results was part of a comprehensive public health investigation based on a single confirmed case that was identified on April 1, 2020.

“I want to acknowledge the obvious concerns this will create for residents and their families. It is a very difficult situation for all involved,” said Steve Smith, Henderson County Health Director. Since the identification of these additional cases, the staff and leadership of the facility and all of our public health partners including Pardee Hospital, AdventHealth and Henderson County Emergency Services have been communicating and prioritizing strategies and actions to care for those affected and to reduce the risks for others at the facility. All residents and their families have been notified along with staff.

Because COVID-19 is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, the Health Department urges **everyone** to take precautions to protect themselves from the spread of all respiratory illness:

- Stay home, and only go out for necessities or exercise, and only have contact with the people you live with.
- Avoid contact with persons that you know are sick
- Cover your cough (cough into the crook of your elbow; or use a tissue and throw in trash)
- Practice good hand hygiene (wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing)
- If you do not have access to soap and water use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces with household cleaners

Routine use of these measures by everyone will decrease the spread of viruses and respiratory diseases in our community.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like the CDC, NCDHHS and Henderson County Public Health. For more information, call the North Carolina

Coronavirus Hotline at 1-866-462-3821 (staffed by nurses and pharmacists 24/7), or visit the Center for Disease Control's website for information and frequent updates at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).